

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for a deck comprising:
 - 2 a first frame member;
 - 3 a second frame member, one of the first frame member or the second frame
 - 4 member having a spacing element thereon, the spacing element for spacing the one
 - 5 of the first frame member or the second frame member with respect to the other of
 - 6 one of the first frame member or the second frame member.

- 1 2. The apparatus for a deck of claim 1 wherein the spacing element includes a
2 lip formed with respect to one of the first frame member or the second frame
3 member.

- 1 3. The apparatus for a deck of claim 1 wherein the spacing element includes a
2 connector associated with at least one of the first frame member or the second frame
3 member.

- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the lip is positioned so that when the first
2 frame member is attached to the second frame member, a first surface of the first
3 frame member and a second surface of the second frame member are substantially
4 coplanar.

- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein one of the first frame member and the
2 second frame member are provided with an adhesive adapted to attach the first
3 frame member to the second frame member.

- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising at least one fastener for
2 attaching the first frame member to the second frame member.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one fastener for
2 attaching the first frame member to the second frame member.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the spacing element is attached to the one
2 of the first and second framing members attached to a wall, wherein the spacing
3 member is elongated and adapted to hold a plurality of joists, at least some of said
4 plurality of joists spaced from some other of said joists.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the plurality of joists are made of
2 aluminum.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the plurality of joists are made of wood.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the spacing element further comprises a
2 plurality of spaced ledges, wherein the ledges are spaced to correspond to the
3 spacing between the plurality of joists.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a flashing element attached to
2 one of the first framing member and the second framing member, the flashing
3 element attached an edge of the one of the first framing member and the second
4 framing member most distant from the spacing element.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a flashing element formed
2 integrally with one of the first framing member and the second framing member, the
3 flashing element attached an edge of the one of the first framing member and the
4 second framing member most distant from the spacing element.

1 14. A ledger element comprising:
2 a first edge;

3 a second edge; and
4 a spacing element associated one of the first and second edge.

1 15. The ledger element of claim 14 further comprising:
2 a flashing element associated with the other of the first and second edge of
3 the ledger board.

1 16. The ledger element of claim 15 wherein the flashing element is adapted for
2 abutting a wall of an edifice.

1 17. The ledger element of claim 14 wherein the spacing element includes a built
2 in pocket adapted to receive a joist.

1 18. The ledger element of claim 17 wherein the spacing element includes a
2 support surface disposed between the first edge of the joist and the second edge of
3 the joist, the support surface in a plane substantially parallel to the first edge and the
4 second edge.

1 19. The ledger element of claim of claim 17 wherein the spacing element
2 includes a support surface located substantially coplanar with one of the first edge
3 of the joist and the second edge of the joist.

1 20. A method for further supporting an existing deck comprising:
2 placing a non-wood element below an existing wood ledger; and
3 attaching the non-wood element to the existing wood ledger and to a
4 structural component to which the existing wood element is attached.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the non-wood element is made of
2 aluminum.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein the non-wood element further includes an
2 extended lip that supports the existing wood ledger and a portion of at least one
3 joist.

1 23. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of placing an aluminum
2 sleeve over an existing post associated with the existing deck.

1 24. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of replacing an existing
2 post of the deck with a non-wood post.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the non-wood post includes a non-wood
2 post and a sleeve.

1 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the non-wood post includes a flange on at
2 least one end.

1 27. A method for assembling a deck frame that includes comprising:
2 placing a first frame member with respect to a second frame member,
3 wherein one of the first frame member or the second frame member has a spacing
4 device thereon;
5 temporarily attaching the first and the second frame members; and
6 permanently attaching the first and the second frame members.